

**JOINT STATEMENT<sup>1</sup>**  
**BY THE PRESIDENTS OF GEORGE C. MARSHALL ALUMNI**  
**ASSOCIATIONS/CLUBS OF COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EASTERN**  
**EUROPE**

We, the Presidents of George C. Marshall Alumni's Associations of South Eastern European countries along with George C. Marshall Center, the European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Republic of Germany;

*Representing* the freely elected presidency and members of the Board of the South - Eastern Europe Regional Alumni Clubs of GCM Center, European Center for Security Studies met for the first time in our history in Montenegro, in May, year of 2011,

*Aware* of the fact that we live on the soil of Europe, that our people, its spiritual content belong to the European cultural sphere, that our diversity of life is rich of life, that we share the same values of democracy, market economy, stability and peace, to live in a time global connections and impacts, in desire that our children live in a better world than this, and with the best intention of creating a positive effect of direct action,

*Working* on the principles of free union of the associations on a non-profit, transparent and accountable bases,

*Determined* to pursue the South Eastern Europe cooperation, on a mutual and equal basis, in the firm belief that each of us has much to learn from the other,

*Considering* that the European orientation of our countries is an integral part of their political, economic, and social development,

*Believing* that Europe cannot be complete without our countries and our peoples representing civilizations and historical traditions, which are essential to the establishment of a contemporary European identity,

*Believing* that European and Euro-Atlantic integration are essential in promoting the aforementioned objectives;

*Taking* into consideration different valuable proposals for the establishment of institutes and centers for the promotion of multilateral cooperation in various fields and welcoming any side proposals,

**Board of GMC Association AGREED:**

1. to work together and create conditions for the prosperity of our nations in a framework of peace, security, good-neighborliness and stability in our region;

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<sup>1</sup> This Joint Statement before its signature has been agreed by the all GEORGE C. MARSHALL ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS/CLUBS OF COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

2. to promote State of Law, protection of human rights, including the rights of personal security and equal treatment of the national minorities, enabling interethnic dialogue, respect of individual freedoms, and a principles of market economy that will allow private enterprises to flourish and generate employment and opportunities for all and especially for the youth;
3. to affirm our commitment to the all international Charters for a new, stable peaceful and prosperous Europe. In the consideration of the Lisbon treaty provisions to enable sovereign equality, respect for rights inherent in sovereignty, refraining from the threat of use of force, inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of States, peaceful settlement of disputes, non - intervention in internal affairs, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of through, conscience, religion or belief, equal rights and self - determination of peoples, cooperation among Alumni's and States, fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law;
4. to transform our region in an area of cooperation and economic prosperity and, to that effect, to advise, help, promote and to support our Governments in good neighborly relations and respect for International Law;
5. to encourage and advise the cooperation of the genuine representatives of our people in our national State service, as well as their common intention to create a forum of understanding and friendly relations;
6. to reconfirm our support for already existing regional initiatives, sharing the same ideals, especially RCC, CEFTA, SECI, BSEC, CEI, same as other regional initiatives;
7. to cooperate and discuss with each other in the field of security, justice, the combat against organized crime, fight against illicit drug and arms trafficking, and the elimination of all forms of terrorism and take joint action against illegal and irregular migration;
8. especially in security area to develop scientific cooperation on combating common and future risks, challenges and threats, sash se proliferation of WMD, cyber insecurity, energy and infrastructural insecurities, human catastrophes, climate changes, global worming and pollution, scarcity of the resources and others;
9. to promote the scientific, educational, cultural, and sport relations as a means for strengthening our mutual understanding and friendship;
10. to use our cultural and religious diversity as a powerful source of inspiration, creativity, and dynamism;
11. to intensify efforts and the increase non governmental, institutional and non institutional formal and informal cooperation and collaboration and contribution of competence, economic cooperation, improvement of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, and energy flow as well as for the establishment of favorable conditions for investments;
12. to invite competent country specialists to intensify their cooperation;
13. to promote the cross border cooperation and to invite officials to meet regularly in order to meet at least twice a year to review the progress achieved.

Development of scientific cooperation in the security field on combating common chalanges and threats on establishing permanent peace and stability in South- Eastern Europe is one of the most important issues of global commons.

**According to agreed performance in derection to efficient, practical realization of the Joint Statement, GMC Allumnies Board, or beter say, South-Eastern European Allumni Asociation Leadership (SEEAAL) AGREED:**

1. Annual presidency to be performed by each country in South-Eastern region on agreed principles of rotation.
2. Presidency and work coordination to be performed by the existing Board of the Marshal Center Alumni Associations in cooperation with the Department for South-Eastern Europe in Marshal Center. At the same time, Alumni Association during its presidency would be under obligation to organize Annual Conference on some ongoing security or other important issue supported by the expertise and assistance provided by Marshal Center - European Center for Security
3. Alumni Association during its presidency to be obligated to draft „Year-Book“ in which works from the Annual Conferences and other important scientific studies from the security field from each country of South -Eastern Europe would be published.
4. All associative contents after evaluations by the Board to be published on Knowledge Portal South-Eastern Europe Alumni Association Leaders (SEEAL) – Group, which would be a great motivation for work of the national Alumni Association during its presidency;
5. Alumni Association, jointly with the national scientific institutions (Universities, Faculties, Governmental institutions and NGO), during its annual presidency would take the opportunity to develop better and more dynamic cooperation which would have the impact on promotion of work of the Alumni Association on national level, and than the media would be more interested for its work.
6. We call upon our Alumni Presidents and Members of the Boards to meet at least twice a year to conduct Alumni consultations and to promote cooperation on issues of regional stability and security;
7. In order to ensure continuity between the Alumni’s countries undertaking the organization of Conferences, Round tables, discussions as well as of various technical groups, the idea of establishing a joint Alumni will be discussed by the Members of the Board of the GCM Regional Alumni Club;
8. The Presidents and the Members of the Board of the GCM Alumni countries expressed their warm thanks for the hospitality of GCM Center for hosting the Regional Alumni Foundation Meeting.
9. They decided to hold their next Meeting in Montenegro.

Draft:

Branka Jagar  
 Republic of Croatia  
*GCM Alumni Club*  
 member of the Board

Meša Tahirović  
 Montenegro  
*GCM Alumni Club*  
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